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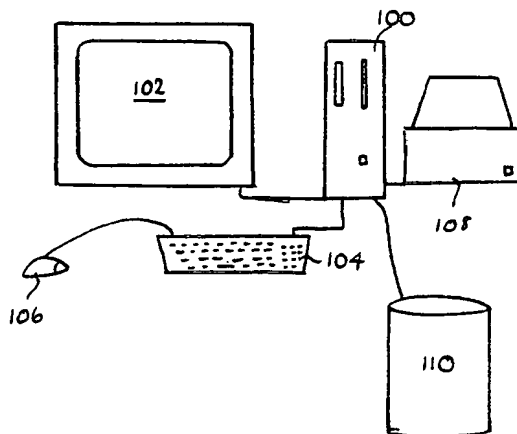
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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE BIOLOGICAL LIKELIHOOD OF CANDIDATE COMPOSITIONS OR STRUCTURES



(57) Abstract: A method of determining the biological likelihood of candidate compositions, particularly glycans is disclosed which incorporates statistical measures of biological relevance for the candidate compositions. Typically, biological relevance, expressed as a numerical score, or biological index, is determined by statistical comparison to an established reference set of known and fully characterised compositions, in the case of glycans a reference set such as the Glycosuite (<http://www.glycosuite.com>) database. Typically, for each candidate glycan composition a partial score is calculated for each component in that theoretical glycan candidate, being calculated from the mean and standard deviation of the component appearing in the reference group. The partial score provides a measure of the likelihood of that component being present in the candidate composition. The partial scores for each component are combined to provide a biological index. The biological index of any given composition may then be used as a basis for discarding biologically "unlikely" compositions, as well as for ranking (sorting) of returned compositions by biological likelihood.



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